

## Abstract

A method for enabling participants in an information technology (IT) system or a computer network to delegate user authority to other system participants is provided. The method of the present invention includes the generation of a proxy authorization. The proxy authorization, or proxy, is used by the IT system to insure that a given participant may have access to resources on the basis of a permission granted and intended by another user or agent of the IT system, and that the grantor of the permission is authorized to issue the access and/ authorities as designated by or within the proxy authorization. A medical record repository, for example may allow unlimited access to particular individual patient records to an individual medical doctor. The doctor can then authorize a specific pharmacy to have limited access to designated portions of the medical records of certain of the patients to whom the doctor is authorized access. The pharmacy may then allow access to distinct and different subsets of the portions of the records, to which the pharmacy is authorized access to by a proxy issued by the doctor, to an insurance company, to a billing clerk, and to pharmacists. The use of proxies thereby allows for efficient B2B collaborative message processing using languages such as XML.